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| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 09/922,591 |
| | Filing Date | 08/03/2001 |
| | First Named Inventor | Harry V. Paul |
| | Art Unit | 2112 |
| | Examiner Name | Clifford H. Knoll |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | 2864 |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
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| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | | | |
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| Firm Name | BECK & TYSVER, P.L.L.C. | | |
| Signature | | | |
| Printed name | Daniel A. Tysver | | |
| Date | 22 February 2005 | Reg. No. | 35,726 |

| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | | | |
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922,591

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Applicant: | Harry V. Paul | Examiner: | Clifford H. Knoll |
| Serial No.: | 09/922,591 | Group Art Unit: | 2112 |
| Filing Date: | August 3, 2001 | Docket No.: | 2864 |
| Title | Fibre Channel Architecture | | |

Date of Deposit: 2-22-05

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Signature: Mary S. Keller
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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

This is responsive to the outstanding final Office Action mailed November 19, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully solicited in view of the following remarks. In summary, the Applicant believes that the claimed invention differs from the prior art in that the claimed invention creates a single, higher port count switch using switch modules and input/output modules that reside on different backplanes, while the prior art uses a backplane to connect multiple switches together in a multi-switch fabric.

REMARKS**Pending Claims:**

In this application, claims 1, 6-27, and 34-41 are currently pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e): Claims 1-27

The Examiner has rejected the pending claims as being anticipated by Carvey, U.S. Patent No. 6,606,656, with inherent features as evidenced by Dally, U.S. Patent No. 6,370,145. Carvey shows multiple modules (such as fabric routers) connected over a backplane together in a multi-module system. (Col. 6, lines 3-9). This can be seen in Figures 1 and 2 of Carvey, which show the modules (24 & 26) of Carvey being